EW.001.00-A – Early Warning Report Data Interpretation Guide (DIG)

Quick Reference

This document provides a quick reference for the **Early Warning Report (EW.001.00-A)**. The report provides a list of students who are currently enrolled in high school or middle school and characteristics which could make them vulnerable to dropping out of high school.

The report is found under **EARLY WARNING REPORTS** in the **REPORTS** tab within SD-STARS.

Questions Report will Help Answer

Which students are at risk for dropping out of school?
Are the same students at risk for dropping out multiple years in a row?
Which early warning indicator is the most prevalent for my school?

Intended Audience

Principals; Administrative Staff (school and district); Teachers; Superintendents; and Assessment.

Data Details

The report looks at students enrolled during the school year selected in the report and displays which indicators are placing them at risk for dropping out of school. This report displays aggregate numbers on the first page and a student list on the second page. Data from the district's Student Information System as well state assessments are displayed.

Common Misunderstandings

WARNING

This report is only available for middle and high schools. The report displays students in the grade they were in according to what the user selects in the school year parameter. Only students who meet the criteria to receive a yellow or red flag in one of the indicators appear on the report. Data are only displayed for indicators students are at risk for.

This report does not contain behavior data, a common indicator for early warning reports, since the Department of Education does not currently collect student-level behavior data.

Just because a student appears on this report doesn't mean the student will drop out. Users must consider the report with other information they know about the student to identify students for intervention strategies.

Instructions

Generating Report

EW.001.00-A – Early Warning

| School Year | 2015-2016 ▼ | District | <Select a Value> ▼ | | **VIEW REPORT** |
| School | ▼ | | | | |

School Year: Select school year.

District: Select district name. What districts display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most district users will only see one district in the drop down.

School: Select district name. What schools display in the drop down depends on your permissions. Most school users will only see one school in the drop down.

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Reading Report

Use the **navigation bar** to navigate the report.

First page   Next page   Go back to parent report   Refresh

|◄ ◄ [1] of 1 ► ►| ◄   💾▾   🔄   ▬

Previous page   Last page   Export report   Hide navigation bar

Current page
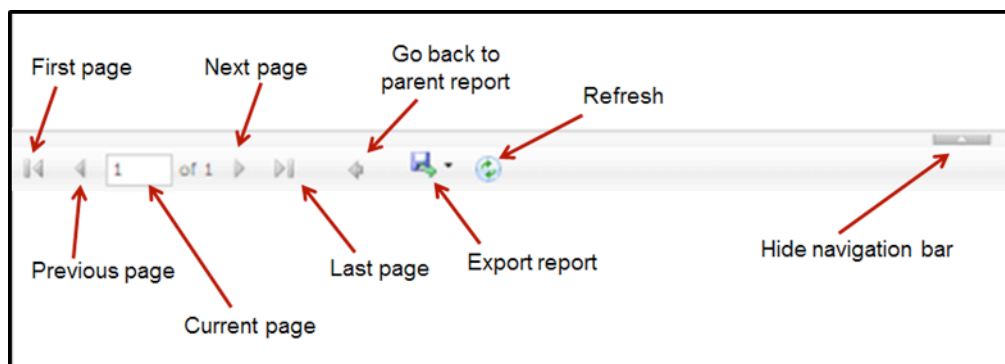
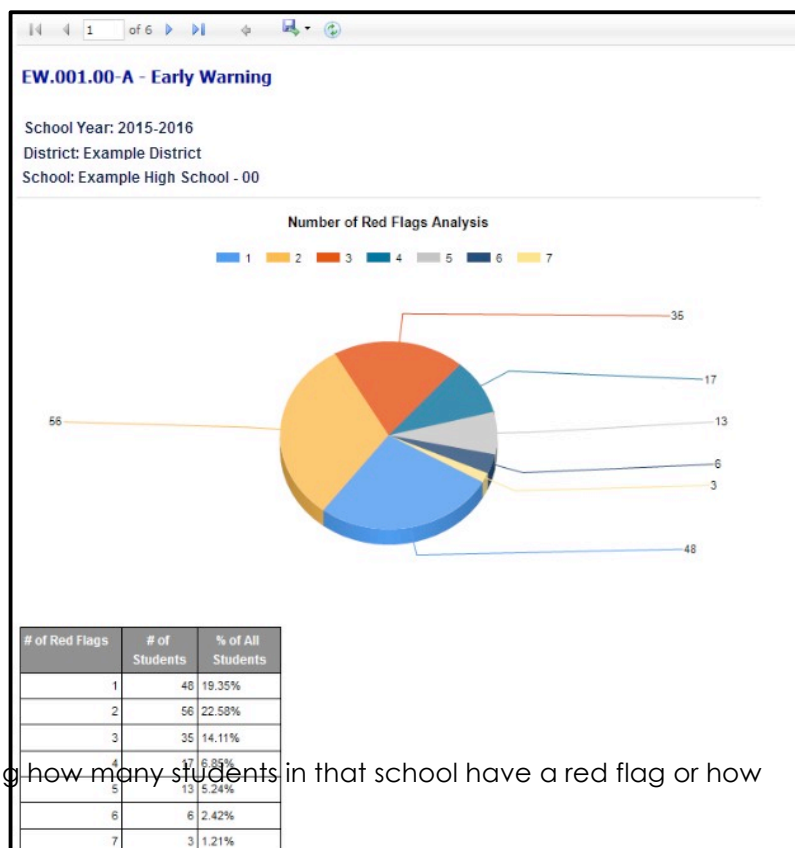Districts can use the Early Warning report to identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school. Most national research focuses on the "ABCs" of early warning indicators: attendance, behaviors, and course performance. This report does not include behavioral data. The South Dakota Department of Education does not collect student-level behaviors; therefore, this report focuses on attendance, course performance, and other indicators. **Districts are encouraged to use this report alongside behavior data to provide a more accurate picture of that student.**

The Early Warning report displays aggregate data on the first page and a student list on the second page.

The first page displays a pie chart and a table with the number of red flags for that school. In addition, the chart displays a percentage of students who have a red flag. This percent is the number of students with red flags divided by the number of students in the school. Districts can use this page as a way of seeing how many students in that school have a red flag or how many students have multiple red flags.

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School Year: 2015-2016
District: Example District
School: Example High School - 00

Number of Red Flags Analysis

# of Red Flags	# of Students	% of All Students
1	48	19.35%
2	56	22.58%
3	35	14.11%
4	17	6.85%
5	13	5.24%
6	6	2.42%
7	3	1.21%

The second page of the report displays a student list. The first set of columns displays student names and demographic data.

Last Name	First Name	State ID	Grade of Selected School Year	Gender	Race	Disability	LEP
Last Name	First Name	111111111	09	F	WH	N	N
Last Name	First Name	222222222	12	M	IN	N	N
Last Name	First Name	333333333	12	M	WH	Y	N
Last Name	First Name	444444444	10	M	WH	N	N
Last Name	First Name	555555555	09	M	WH	N	N
Last Name	First Name	666666666	12	M	IN	N	N
Last Name	First Name	777777777	09	M	IN	N	N
Last Name	First Name	888888888	11	F	IN	N	N
Last Name	First Name	999999999	09	F	IN	N	N
Last Name	First Name	000000000	10	F	WH	N	N

			Prior Year Risk	Attendance		Course Performance						Other		
Last Name ⇕	First Name ⇕	State ID ⇕		# Absences / YTD ⇕	Repeated Grade ⇕	Not Proficient ELA in Most Recent State Test ⇕	Not Proficient in Math in Most Recent State Test ⇕	Low HS Cum. GPA ⇕	Failed HS Courses ⇕	Not Enough HS Credits ⇕	Mobile Student ⇕	# of Red Flags ⇕	# of Yellow Flags ⇕
Last Name	First Name	111111111				Level 2	Level 1					2	1
Last Name	First Name	222222222		24.11			Level 2					2	1
Last Name	First Name	333333333			1	Below Basic	Basic			8.50		4	1
Last Name	First Name	444444444								7.00		1	0
Last Name	First Name	555555555		10.68		Level 2	Level 1	1.58				3	2
Last Name	First Name	666666666			1	Level 2	Level 2	1.62	8			5	1
Last Name	First Name	777777777			12-Twelfth Grade		Level 2		3				1
Last Name	First Name	888888888								2		1	0
Last Name	First Name	999999999		55.32		Level 1	Level 1		11	0.00	Y	7	1
Last Name	First Name	000000000		32.65		Basic	Basic	0.67	12	6.50		6	1

02072ii-Geometry*/S-2
04001ii-WldGeog/Cult/Hist/S-2
05154ii-Intro to Art/S-2

The second set of columns shows the various early warning indicators. Yellow- and red-filled boxes mean students are at risk in a given indicator and will display data. Green-filled boxes meant the student is not at risk in a given indicator and will not display data. Indicators are broken into three main areas – attendance, course performance, and other. There is also a flag, "Prior Year Risk," that warns users this student was at risk during the previous school year.

The thresholds for the flags are as follows:

Attendance – A student who misses 10-17 days of school will be flagged yellow. A student will be flagged red upon missing 18 or more days. The number of absences for the year is displayed. These thresholds were set by looking at national research on chronic absenteeism. See http://www.attendanceworks.org for more information.

Repeated grade – A student will be flagged red if a student has ever repeated a grade since 3rd grade. There is no yellow flag for this indicator. The number that displays indicates how many times they were enrolled in the same grade for more than 1 year. If you hover over that number, it will show what grade was repeated. For students who are receiving special education services and remain as a 12th grader multiple years in a row, they will count as repeating a grade one time.

Not proficient ELA/math in most recent state test – For 9th, 10, and 11th grade students, their 8th grade state assessment is their "most recent" tests. For 12th grade students, their 11th grade state assessment is their "most recent" tests. A student is flagged red if a student fails to score level 3 or 4 in either ELA or math on the most recent state assessment. There is no yellow flag for this indicator. The indicator will display which level they did score (either Level 1 or Level 2).

Low high school cumulative GPA – A student is red when a student has a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or lower. There is no yellow flag for this indicator. The indicator will display their current cumulative GPA.

Failed high school courses – A student is flagged yellow when they fail one class and red when they fail two or more classes. The indicator will display the number of courses in which the student received a failing grade (failed, withdrawn failed, defer failed) in. If you hover over this number, what courses were failed will pop up.

Not enough high school credits – Although districts set their own graduation requirements, the state requires a minimum of 22 credits to graduate. Using this threshold, a student is flagged red when they are not on track to obtain this minimum number of credits. There is no yellow flag for this indicator.

"On track" depends on the student's grade and semester. If the goal is to have 22 credits after the 8 semesters in high school, then this report expects student should earn at least 2.75 credits every semester. For first semester of 9th grade students, they would not have earned any credits yet. However, once in the 2nd semester, the 9th grade students are expected to have earned 2.75 credits. If they are below this threshold, they will have a red flag.

Mobile student – A student who is considered mobile, appears on the mobility report, is flagged red. There is no yellow flag for this indicator. A 'Y' indicates the student was mobile during the year. To learn more about what makes a student mobile, see the Student Mobility Report DIG.

Users are able to **sort** this report by all columns except 'Prior Year Risk' in the report.

Drill through capability is also available in this report to view the Student Profile Report. Click on the student's name in order to see it.

Downloading Report

This is a wide report. It is best used when a user exports it. It can be downloaded into different formats. The most convenient format for analysis would be Excel.

Essential Questions

Which students are at risk for dropping out of school?

This report helps schools and districts identify students who may be at risk for dropping out of school. If a student appears on this report, then schools can target the student with interventions based on the indicator.

A few words of caution:

> This report does not contain behavior data, a common indicator for early warning reports. Since the state does not collect student level behavior data, it is recommended that schools use this report along with behavior data.
>
> Just because a student appears on this report doesn't mean the student will drop out. Users must consider the report with other information they know about the student to identify students for intervention strategies.

Are the same students at risk for dropping out multiple years in a row?

Users are able to identify students who remain at risk for dropping out by seeing if the indicator 'Prior Year Risk' is shaded yellow. Users can then go and run the report for the previous year to see why the student appeared on the report.

Which indicator is the most prevalent for my school?

This report can also be used to see if there is an area school wide that students are struggling to meet. If there is a large amount students who fail to meet a certain threshold it could indicate an area for improvement for the school.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why is behavior data not collected at the state level?

There are a few reasons. First, Senate Bill 63 limits what the DOE can collect. Second, the behavior data found in Infinite Campus would need to improve in quality for it to be meaningful in a STARS report. In other words, different districts would need to use the same standard for entering the data. Third, many districts use systems (ex: SWIS) or methods outside of Infinite Campus to track student behavior. Those systems/methods are not in SD-STARS.

Q: Why does "NA" appear for the columns "Low HS Cum. GPA," "Failed HS Courses," and "Not Enough HS credits?"

Users will notice "NA" for these columns when they are running the report for a middle school. Only high schools will have GPA, course, and credit data.

Q: Why are elementary schools not included in this report?

The two indicators in this report that would be available for all grades in an elementary school would be attendance and assessment results. There is already a report that elementary schools can use to show these two indicators – Student Achievement Roster. For other indicators to work for elementary grades, such as course performance, new data standards would be needed (ex: course number system).

Q: Why does data display in yellow and red boxes but not green?

This is the way the report works. Data only appears when the threshold for the flag has not been met.

History Report Details	Report Details

The Early Warning report was originally developed and released in summer 2016.

Report Responsiveness

The report loads in under **05 seconds**.

Problems?

SDDOE validated the data to the best of its ability in summer 2016. If districts find errors in the data, please contact STARS Support at STARSHelp@state.sd.us.

Security Roles with Report Access

District: Assessment
District: Management
District: Superintendent
School: Management
School: Principal
School: Teacher

Security Consideration

This report will show results for students who ended the selected year with the district/school/classroom.